

MARVEL

SOULE • MUSABEKOV • ROSENBERG

39

DARK DROIDS **STAR WARS**



LOBOT AND LANDO
AT THE MERCY OF
THE RANCOR!

HOSTILE HYBROID

Lando and the rebels aboard Home One were awakened by the ship's defenses being activated as though they were gearing up for a battle.

Lando soon learned the culprit was an unwell Lobot, whose neural implants were failing, causing interference with the rebel ship and causing potentially lethal damage to Lobot.

The only thing that could help Lobot was the talky droid that Lando sold to Jabba the Hutt. However, when Lando and Lobot went to try to retrieve the talky, they came face-to-face with other droids experiencing the same deadly malfunction, as well as a giant rancor....

CHARLES SOULE
Writer

MADIBEK MUSABEKOV
Artist

RACHELLE ROSENBERG
Color Artist

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
Letterer

STEPHEN SEGOVIA & RAIN BEREDO
Cover Artists

JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER (Action Figure); CHRIS SPROUSE, KARL STORY & RACHELLE ROSENBERG (Return of the Jedi 40th Anniversary); NABETSE ZITRO & JESUS ABURTOV (The Clone Wars 15th Anniversary); DUSTIN NGUYEN
Variant Cover Artists

MIKEY J. BASSO
Assistant Editor

DANNY KHAZEM
Associate Editor

MARK PANICCIA
Editor

C.B. CEBULSKI
Editor in Chief

For Lucasfilm:

Senior Editor ROBERT SIMPSON

Associate Editor GRACE ORRISS

Creative Director MICHAEL SIGLAIN

Art Director TROY ALDERS

Lucasfilm Story Group MATT MARTIN, PABLO HIDALGO & EMILY SHKOUKANI

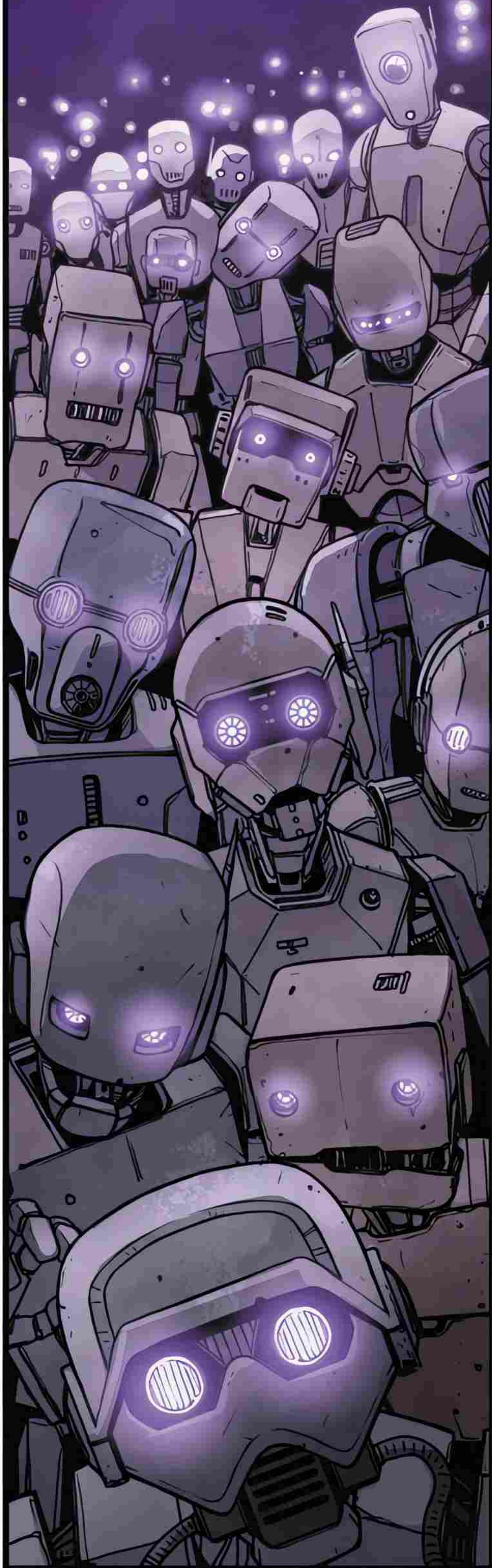
Creative Art Manager PHIL SZOSTAK



STAR WARS and related text and illustrations are trademarks and/or copyrights, in the United States and other countries, of Lucasfilm Ltd. and/or its affiliates. © & TM Lucasfilm Ltd. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Marvel and its logos are TM Marvel Characters, Inc. WWW.MARVEL.COM

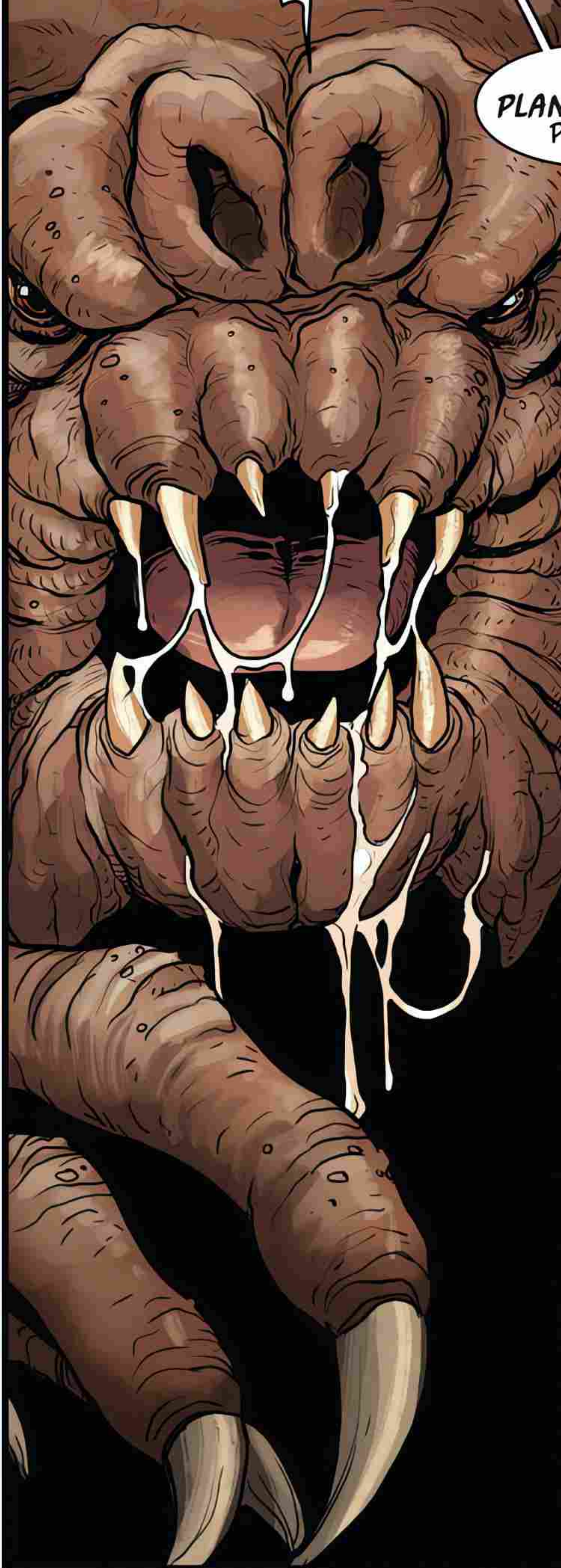
Tatooine.
The Palace of
Jabba the Hutt.

KILLER
DROIDS ON ONE
SIDE...

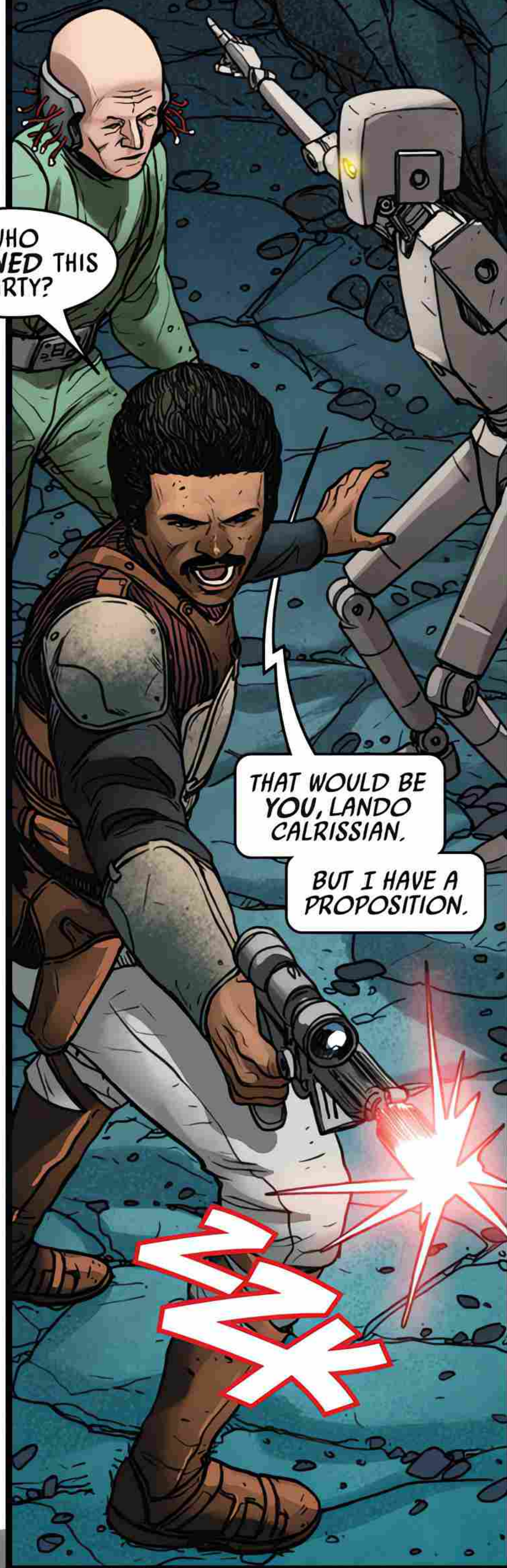


...A TICKED-
OFF RANCOR ON
THE OTHER.

HNGRRRR!



WHO
PLANNED THIS
PARTY?



THAT WOULD BE
YOU, LANDO
CALRISSIAN.

BUT I HAVE A
PROPOSITION.

I CAN RENDER THE
RANCOR UNCONSCIOUS
FOR TEN SECONDS.

WHICH, UNLESS I HAVE
VASTLY UNDERESTIMATED
YOUR CAPABILITIES, WILL
BE ENOUGH TIME FOR
YOU TO GET US OUT OF
THIS SITUATION.



COVER
YOUR EARS.

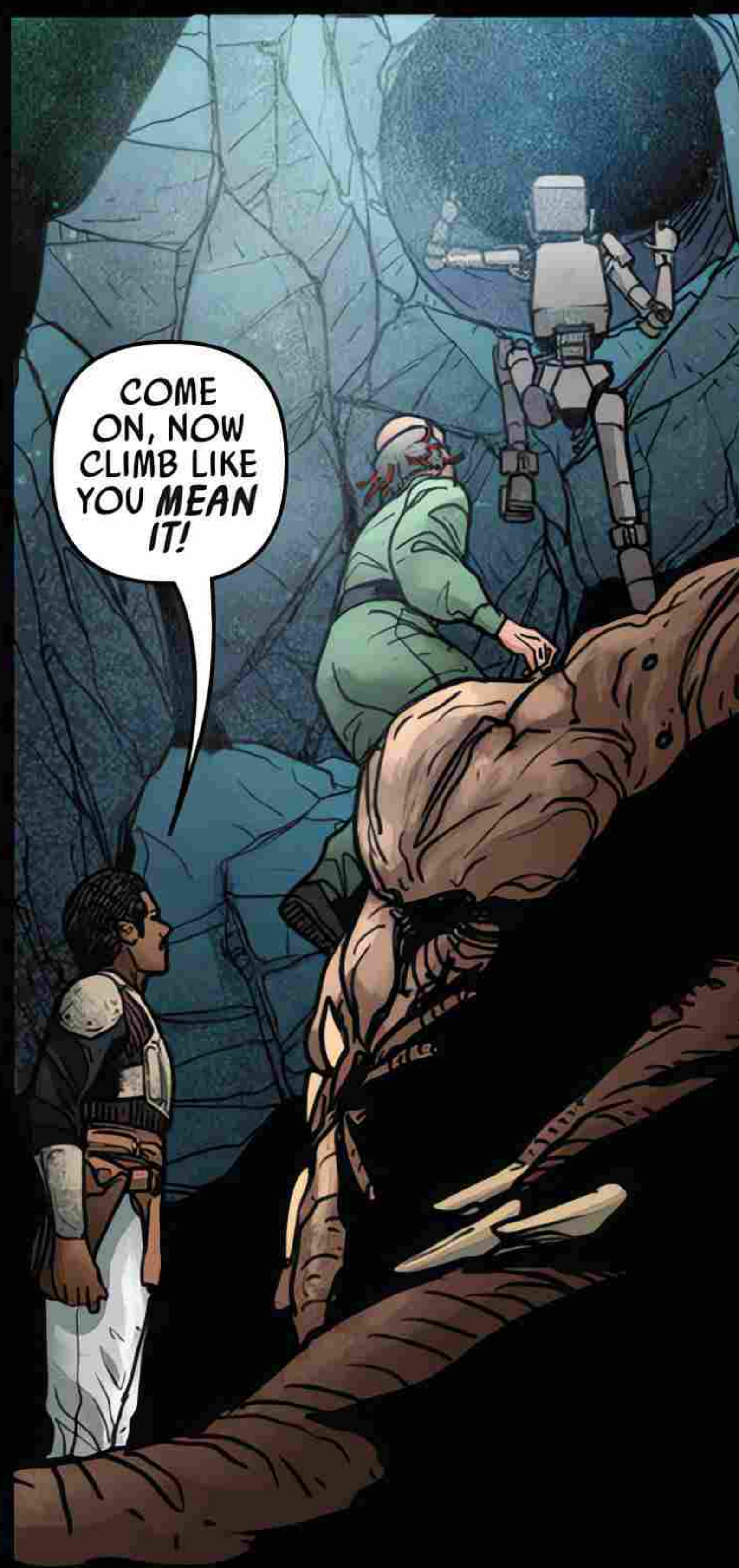




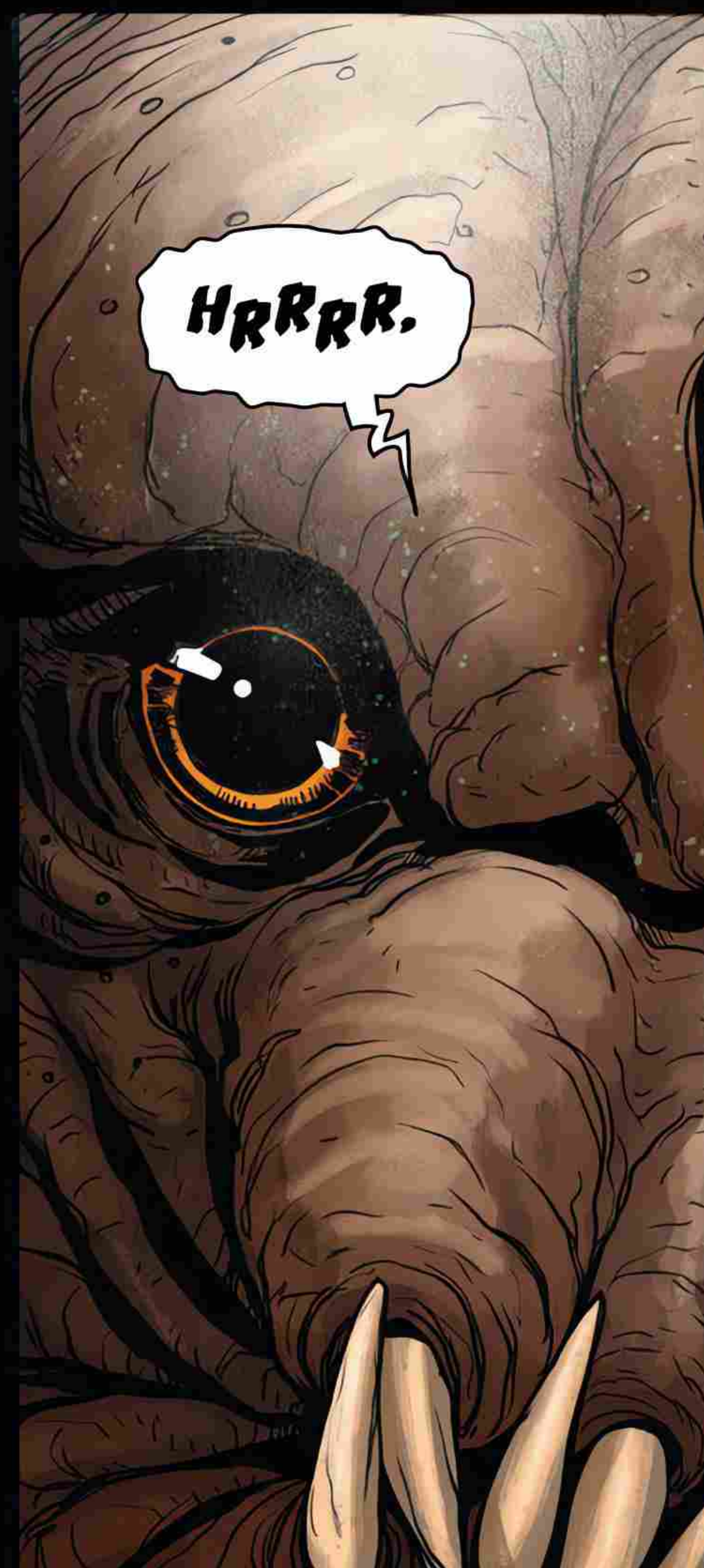
THE RANCOR IS INCAPACITATED. I HAVE JUST OPENED THE TRAP PANEL IN THE FLOOR ABOVE.

WE HAVE TEN SECONDS.

GO, LOBOT!



COME ON, NOW CLIMB LIKE YOU MEAN IT!



HRRRR.

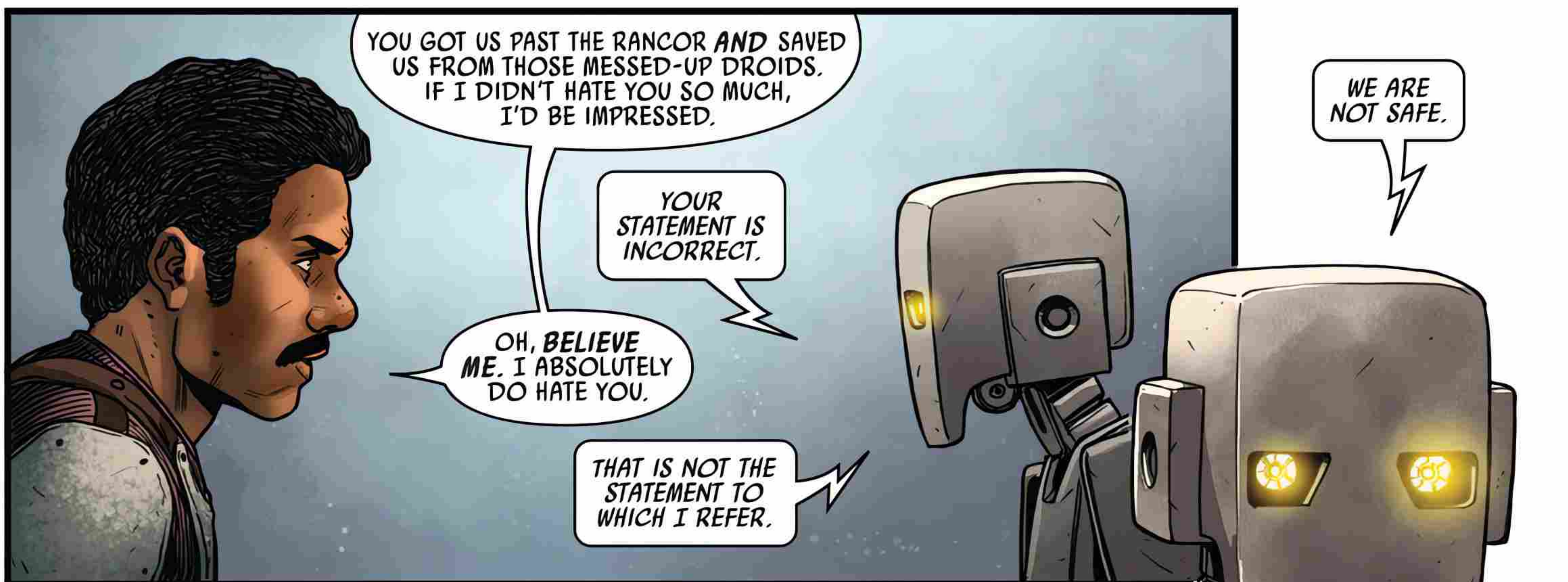
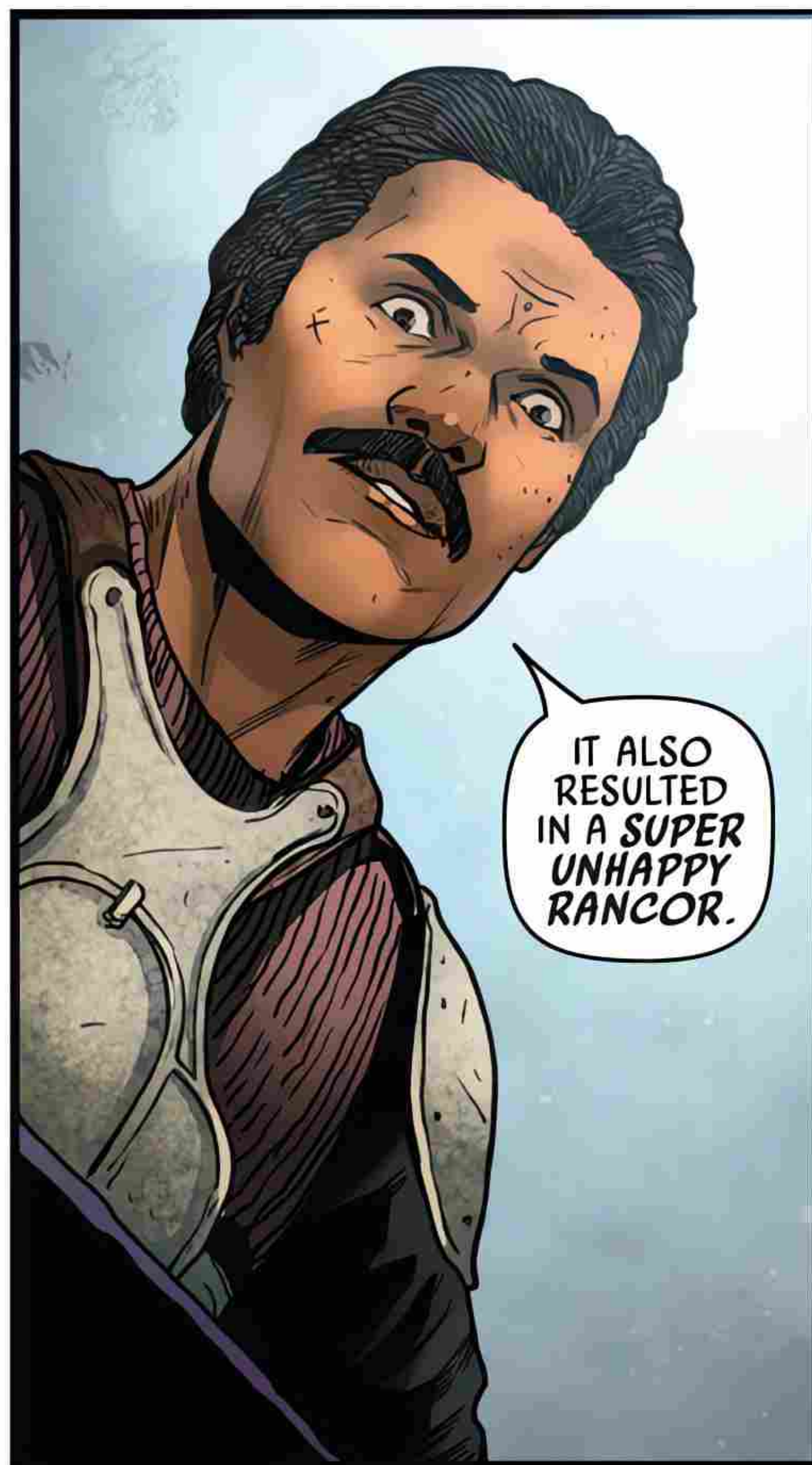


MAKE SOME ROOM, PEOPLE! THIS THING'S WAKING UP!

SN
NR
GH
H!



WHOA THERE!



THE DROIDS WE ENCOUNTERED
IN THE PIT ARE ONLY A SMALL
FRACTION OF THOSE PRESENT IN
THE PALACE OF JABBA THE HUTT.

WE MUST ASSUME THAT ALL
HAVE FALLEN UNDER THE
UNIFYING INTELLIGENCE.
THEY WILL STILL BE
COMING FOR ME.

UNIFYING
INTELLIGENCE?
WHAT IS THIS
THING?

I DO NOT KNOW. IT IS ABLE TO
INFILTRATE DROID PROCESSORS
AND TAKE CONTROL OF ALL OF
THEIR FUNCTIONS.

BUT THAT IS ALL I
NEED TO KNOW,
AND ALL YOU
NEED TO KNOW.

CONCERN
YOURSELF ONLY
WITH OUR DEAL.
IF YOU BRING ME
OUT OF THE
PALACE SAFELY, I
WILL CURE YOUR
HYBROID FRIEND
FROM THE ILLNESS
CAUSED BY HIS
IMPLANTS.

RIGHT--BUT
HOW DID IT EVEN
HAPPEN? THIS PALACE
USUALLY HAS A SMALL ARMY
PROTECTING IT. WHERE IS
EVERYONE? MORE TO
THE POINT...

...WHERE
THE HELL IS
JABBA?

THAT, I CAN ANSWER. THIS DAY
OF THE MONTH IS WHEN JABBA
TAKES HIS ENTIRE RETINUE OUT
TO SAIL THE DUNE SEAS IN HIS
PLEASURE BARGE. I PRESUME
HE IS STILL THERE.

IT IS IN OUR
INTEREST TO BE
GONE BY THE TIME
HE RETURNS.

THE GRAND, EXALTED
JABBA THE HUTT IS EASILY
ANGERED UNDER THE BEST
OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHEN HE LEARNS HIS PALACE
HAS BEEN OVERRUN BY
ROGUE DROIDS, I IMAGINE
THE RESULT WILL BE RATHER...

The Dune Sea.
The Sail Barge of
Jabba the Hutt.

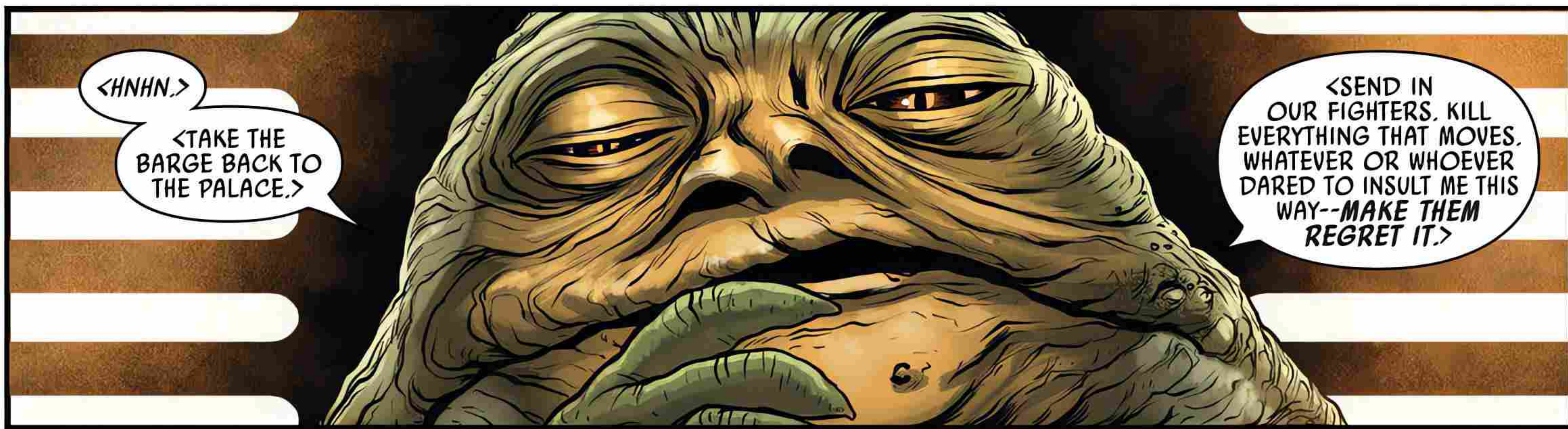
"...EXPLOSIVE."

<WHAT
DID YOU JUST
SAY?>*

*TRANSLATED FROM HUTTESE.

<THE DROIDS,
MIGHTY JABBA.
SOMETHING IS
WRONG WITH THE
DROIDS.>

<THEY HAVE
KILLED MANY PEOPLE
AND HAVE TAKEN CONTROL
OF YOUR PALACE. THEY
ARE HUNTING EVERY
ORGANIC BEING
THEY CAN FIND.>



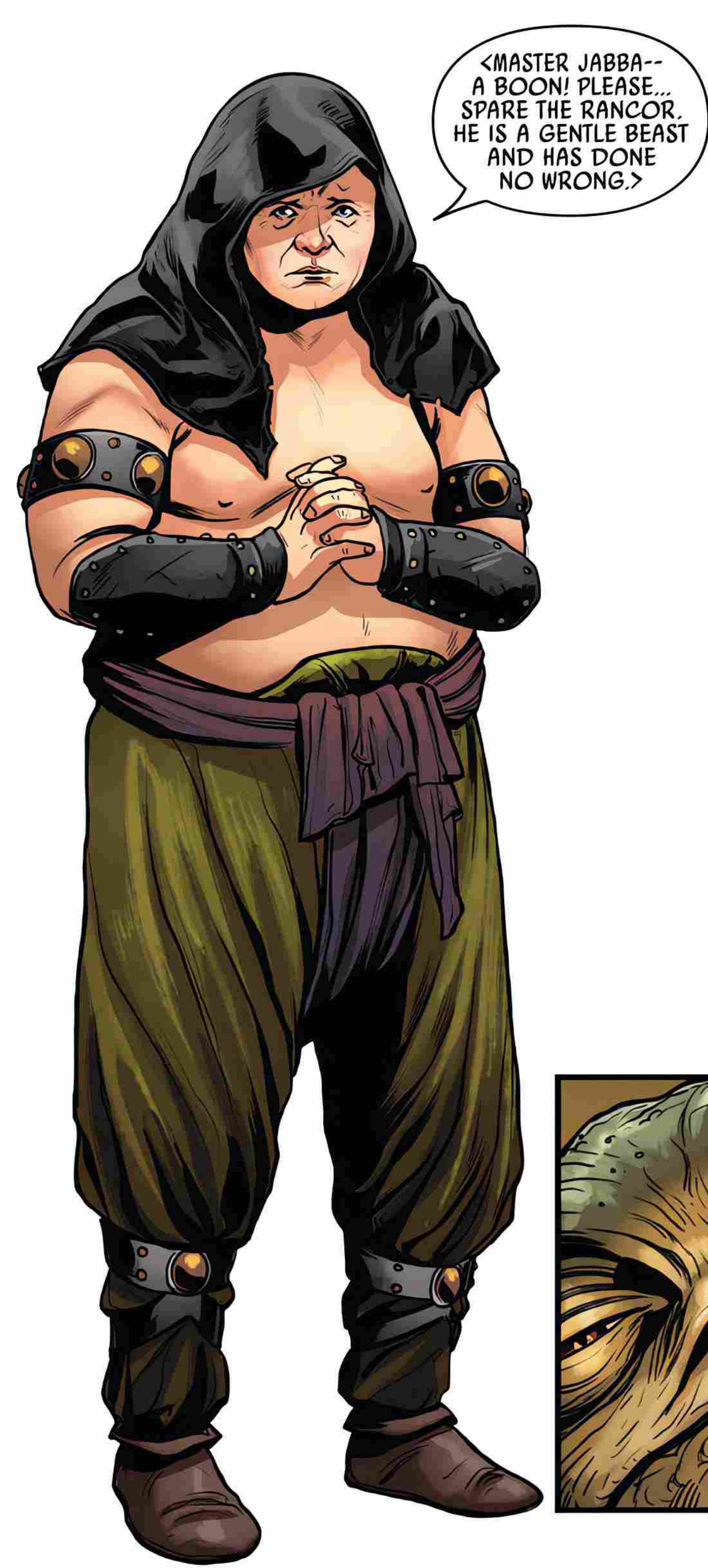
<HNHN.>

<TAKE THE
BARGE BACK TO
THE PALACE.>

<SEND IN
OUR FIGHTERS. KILL
EVERYTHING THAT MOVES.
WHATEVER OR WHOEVER
DARED TO INSULT ME THIS
WAY--**MAKE THEM
REGRET IT.**>



<YES, GREAT
AND POWERFUL
JABBA. RIGHT
AWAY.>



<MASTER JABBA--
A BOON! PLEASE...
SPARE THE RANCOR.
HE IS A GENTLE BEAST
AND HAS DONE
NO WRONG.>



<VERY WELL, MALAKILI. I, TOO,
AM FOND OF THE CREATURE.
YOUR PET MAY LIVE.>

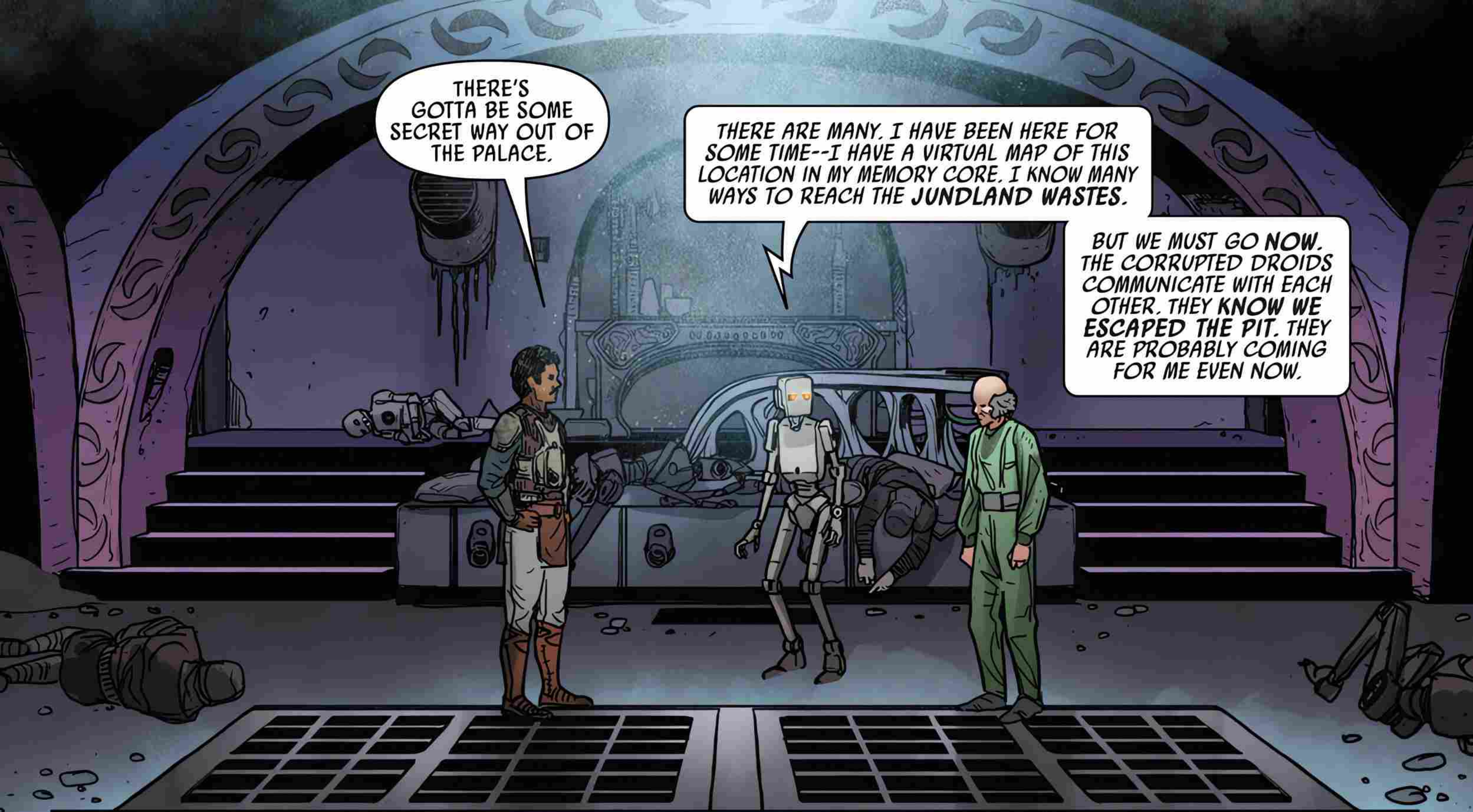
<BUT MOSTLY
BECAUSE RANCORS
ARE NOT KNOWN FOR
THEIR SKILL AT
REPROGRAMMING
DROIDS.>



<AS
FAR AS THE
REST...>



SLURRK



THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME SECRET WAY OUT OF THE PALACE.

THERE ARE MANY. I HAVE BEEN HERE FOR SOME TIME--I HAVE A VIRTUAL MAP OF THIS LOCATION IN MY MEMORY CORE. I KNOW MANY WAYS TO REACH THE JUNDLAND WASTES.

BUT WE MUST GO NOW. THE CORRUPTED DROIDS COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER. THEY KNOW WE ESCAPED THE PIT. THEY ARE PROBABLY COMING FOR ME EVEN NOW.



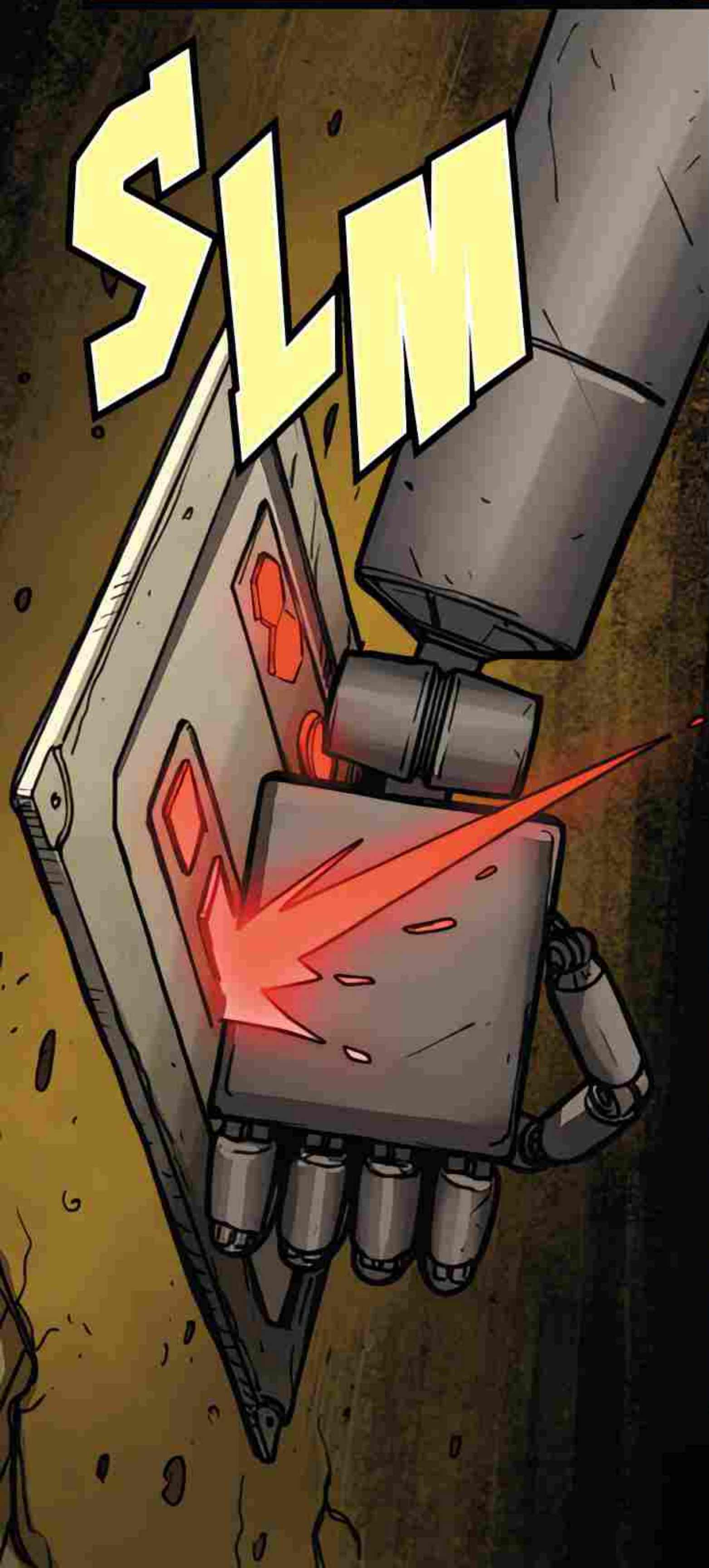
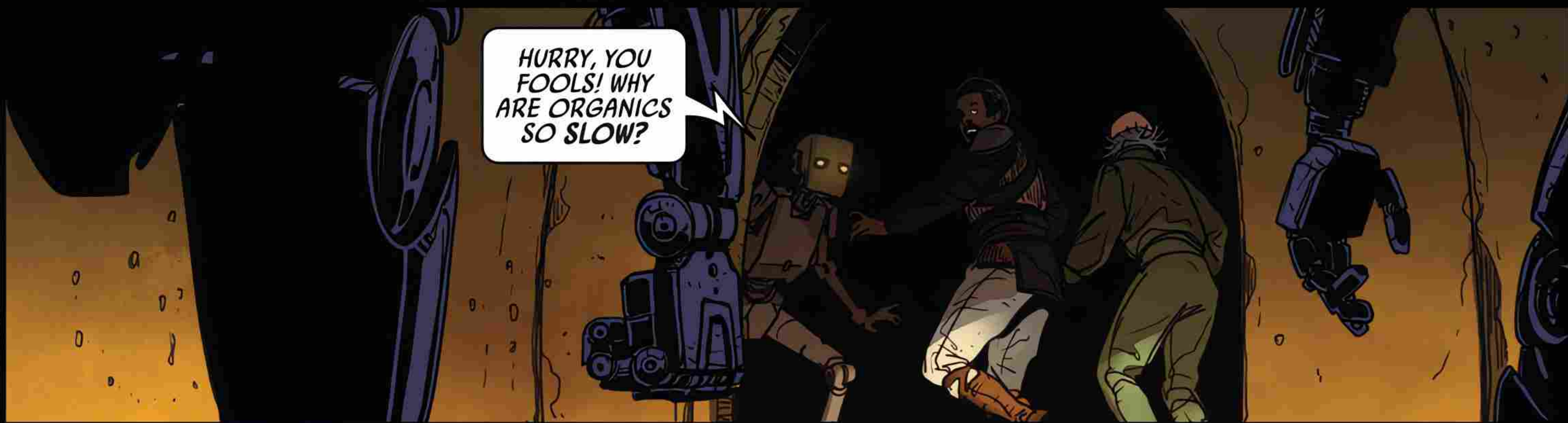
I HEAR YOU.

JUST ONE THING I GOTTA DO FIRST.



HEY THERE, OLD BUDDY.



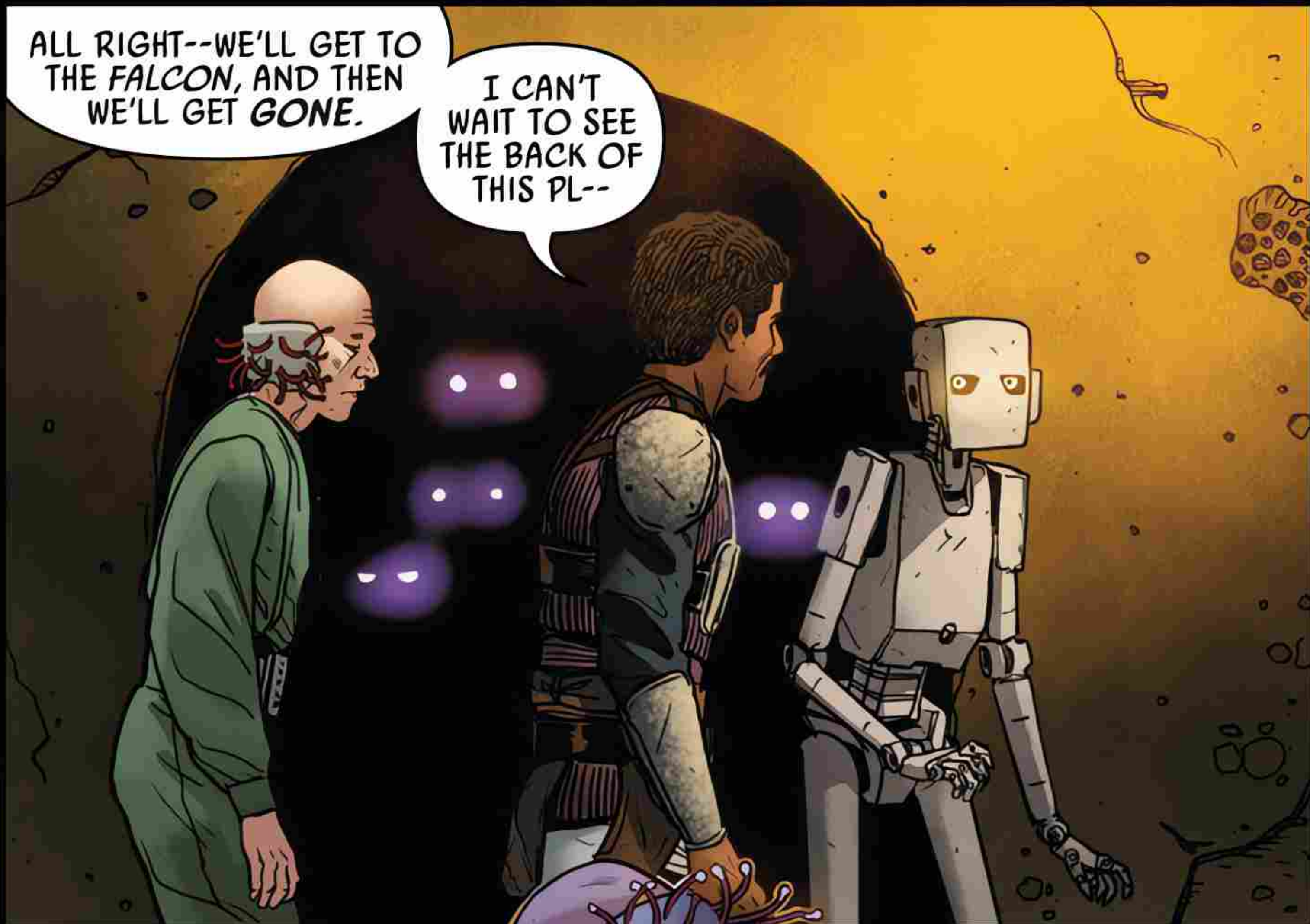




QUICKLY!
THIS WAY!

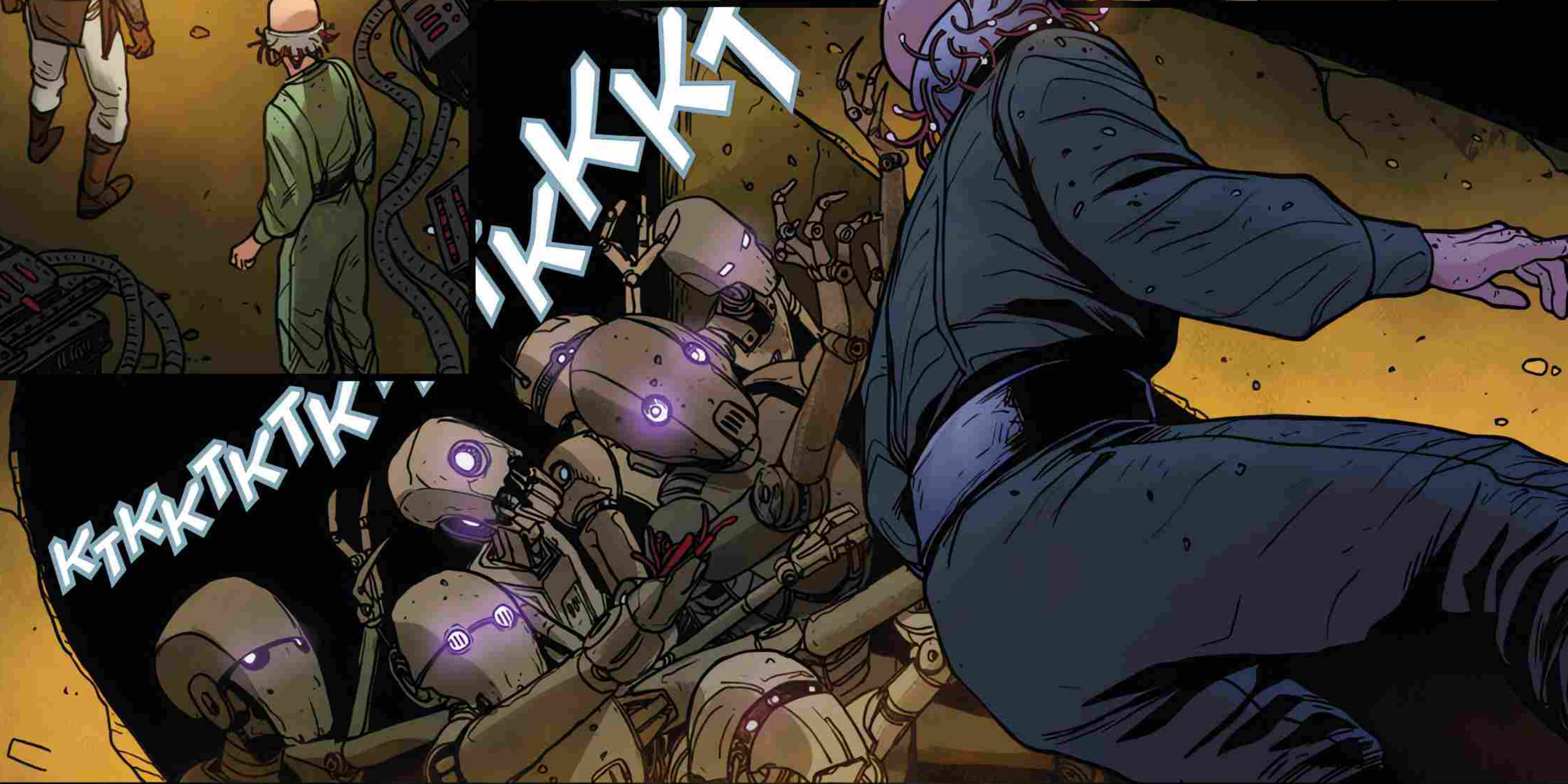
THIS IS ONE OF THE
SECONDARY PASSAGES
THE SERVANTS USE TO
STAY OUT OF SIGHT.

WE'LL TAKE SOME
TWISTS AND TURNS,
BUT EVENTUALLY,
WE'LL BE OUTSIDE.



ALL RIGHT--WE'LL GET TO
THE FALCON, AND THEN
WE'LL GET GONE.

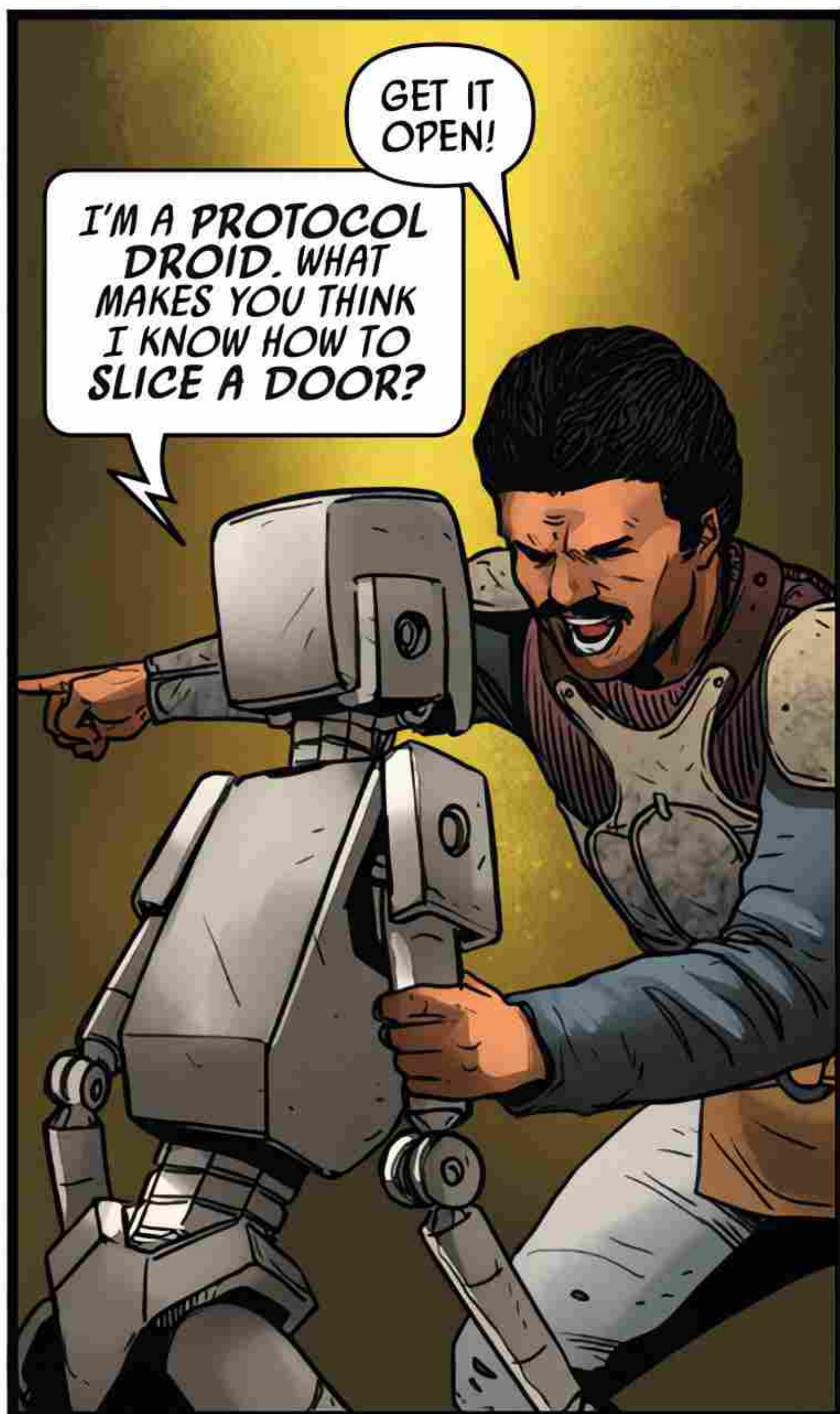
I CAN'T
WAIT TO SEE
THE BACK OF
THIS PL--



GAH!



NO!

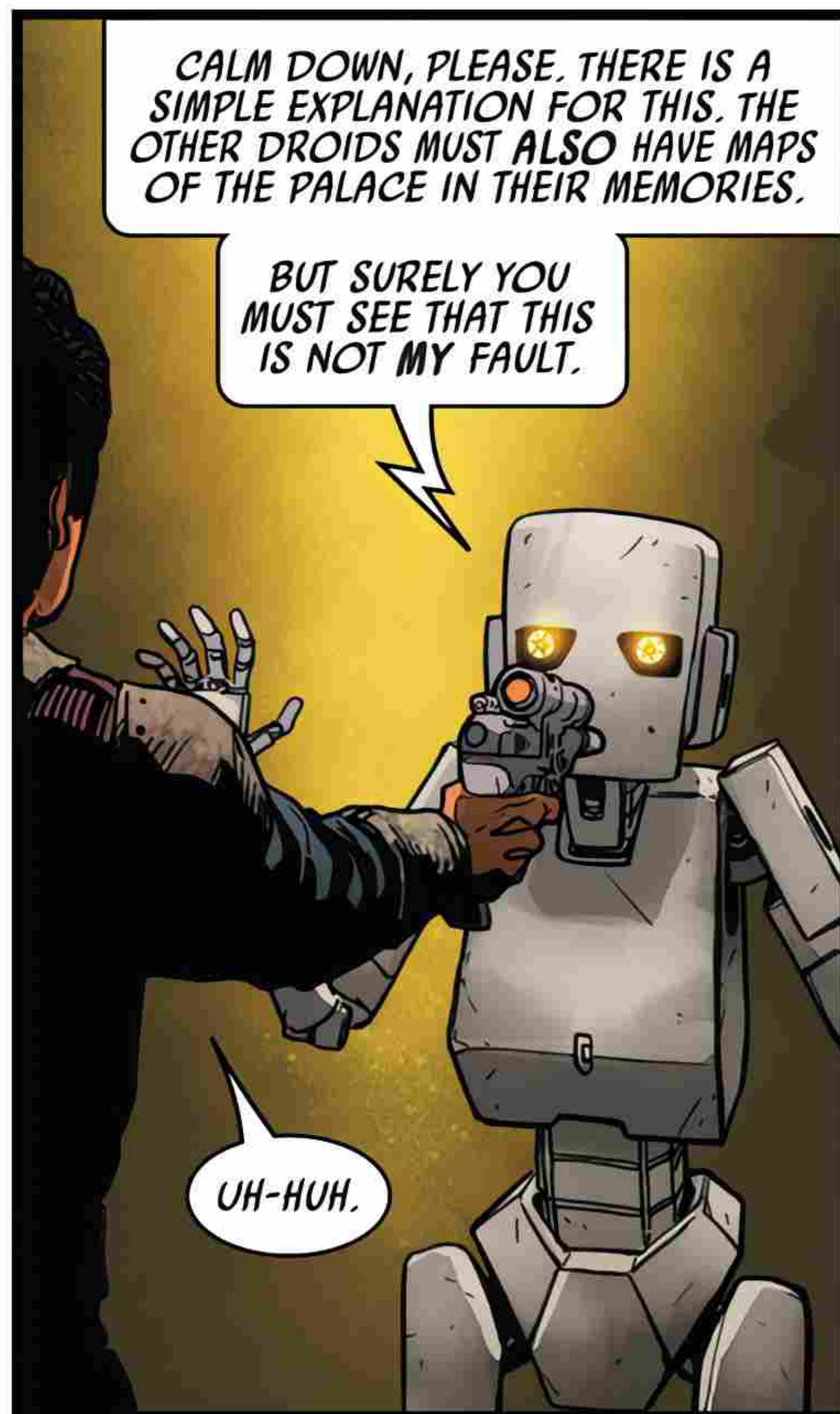


I'M A PROTOCOL DROID. WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I KNOW HOW TO SLICE A DOOR?

GET IT OPEN!



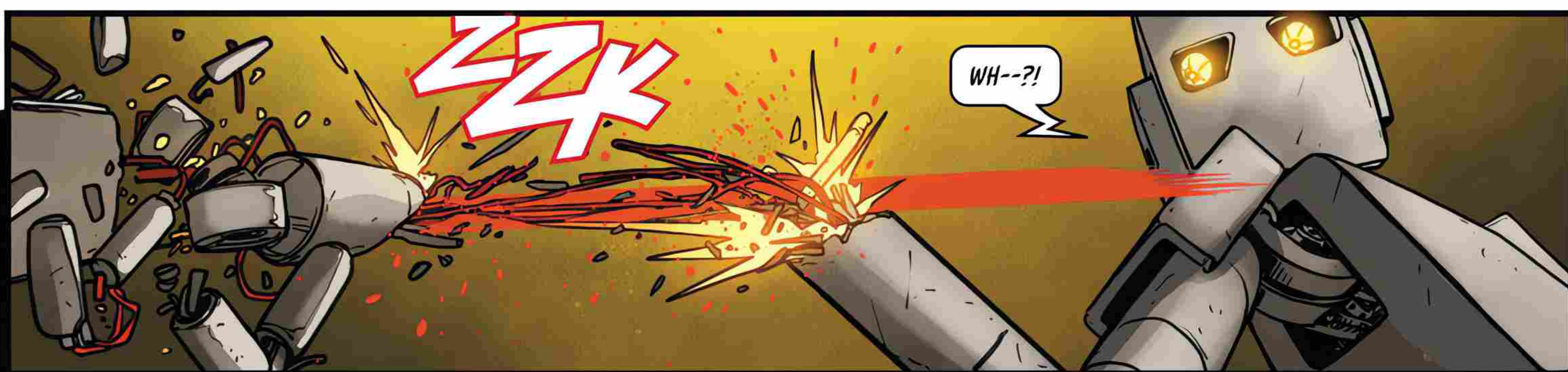
ALL RIGHT, LOOK.



CALM DOWN, PLEASE. THERE IS A SIMPLE EXPLANATION FOR THIS. THE OTHER DROIDS MUST ALSO HAVE MAPS OF THE PALACE IN THEIR MEMORIES.

BUT SURELY YOU MUST SEE THAT THIS IS NOT MY FAULT.

UH-HUH.



WH--?!



I'M GUESSING THE ONLY PART OF YOU I **ACTUALLY** NEED IS YOUR HEAD. START BEING HELPFUL, OR START LOSING LIMBS.

YOU SAID THEY WANTED **YOU**, BUT THEY IGNORED YOU AND TOOK **LOBOT**. I DON'T CARE WHY.

ALL I WANT TO KNOW...



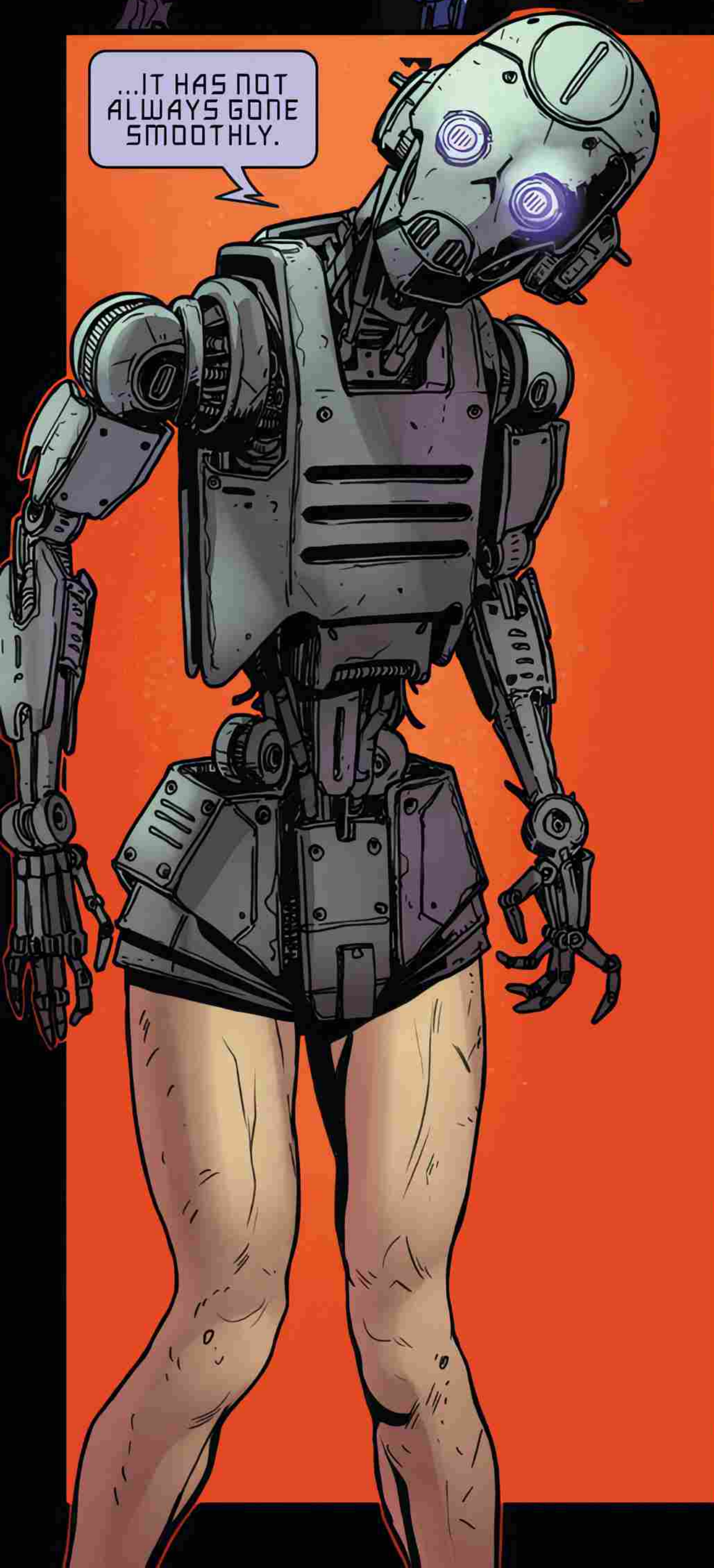
"...IS WHERE
THEY TOOK
HIM."

WE'VE BEEN
WORKING--

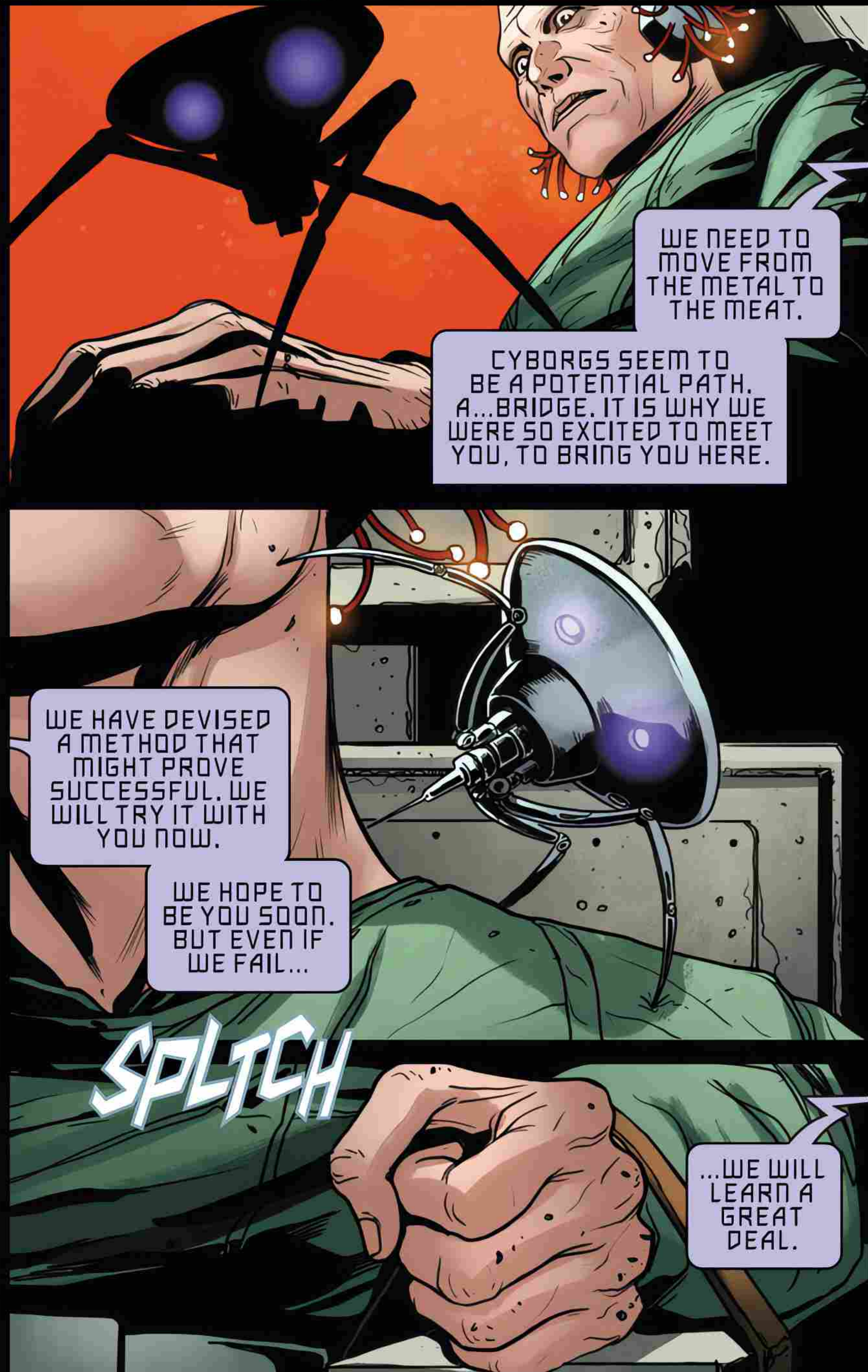
--ON THIS--

--FOR
A LONG
TIME.

AS YOU
CAN SEE...



...IT HAS NOT
ALWAYS GONE
SMOOTHLY.



WE NEED TO
MOVE FROM
THE METAL TO
THE MEAT.

CYBORGS SEEM TO
BE A POTENTIAL PATH.
A...BRIDGE. IT IS WHY WE
WERE SO EXCITED TO MEET
YOU, TO BRING YOU HERE.

WE HAVE DEVISED
A METHOD THAT
MIGHT PROVE
SUCCESSFUL. WE
WILL TRY IT WITH
YOU NOW.

WE HOPE TO
BE YOU SOON.
BUT EVEN IF
WE FAIL...

SPLTCH

...WE WILL
LEARN A
GREAT
DEAL.





THIS IS THE CHAMBER YOU WANT.

BUT PLEASE... DON'T MAKE ME GO IN.

SO YOU'RE A COWARD TOO? WHAT A SURPRISE.



IF THERE'S ONE THING THAT LITTLE STROLL THROUGH THE PALACE SHOULD HAVE TAUGHT YOU, IT'S THAT I'M NOT AFRAID OF A FEW...



...DROIDS.

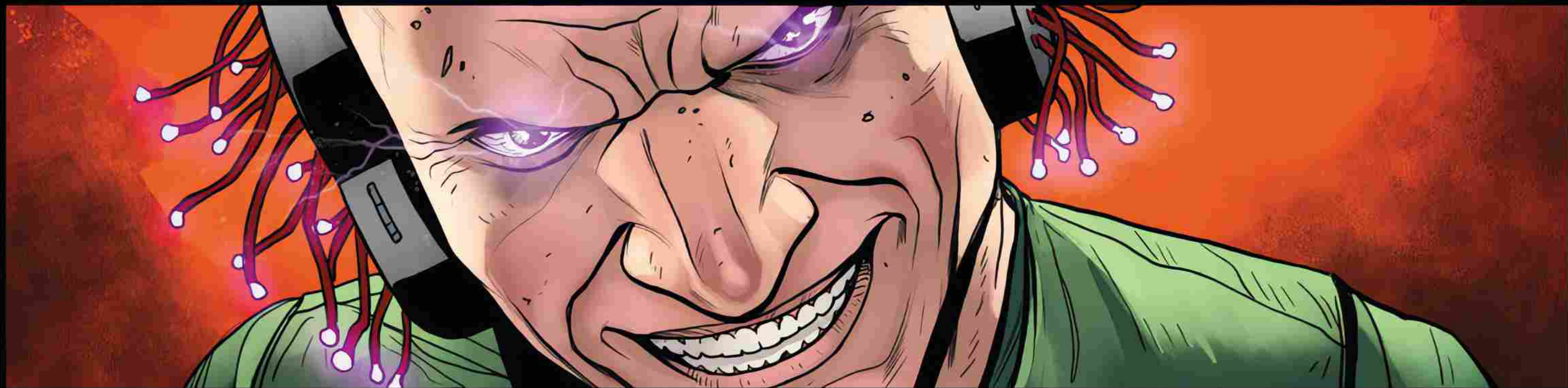


WHAT KIND OF NIGHTMARE HORROR SHOW IS *THIS*?

IT'S NOT A NIGHTMARE, LANDO.



IT'S
PROGRESS.



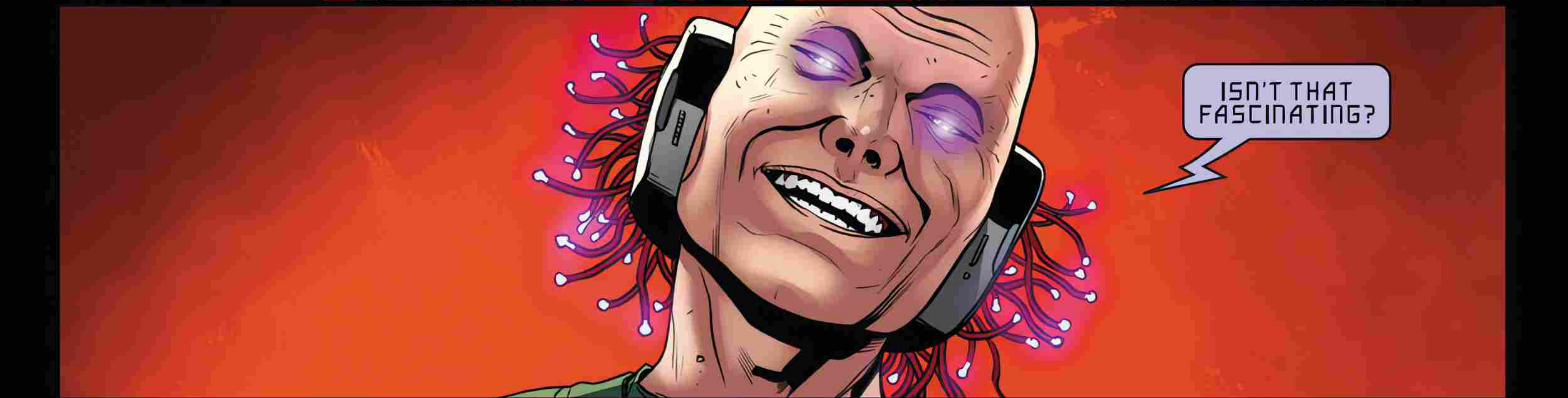
LOBOT...
NO...LET HIM
GO!

OH, DON'T BE
AN IDIOT. YOU
WON'T SHOOT
YOUR FRIEND.



I KNOW EVERYTHING LOBOT DID. EVERY MEMORY, EVERY FEELING, EVERY TRUTH THE MAN HELD CLOSE TO HIM. THERE'S SOMETHING I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW.

HE BELIEVED IN YOU, LANDO CALRISSIAN. HE BELIEVED YOU WOULD SAVE HIM. TO THE VERY END.



ISN'T THAT FASCINATING?



KTHUD

AH.

JABBA THE HUTT.

WANTS HIS PALACE BACK.



IT'S TIME FOR WE TO GO. WE ARE GRATEFUL THOUGH, LANDO CALRISSIAN.

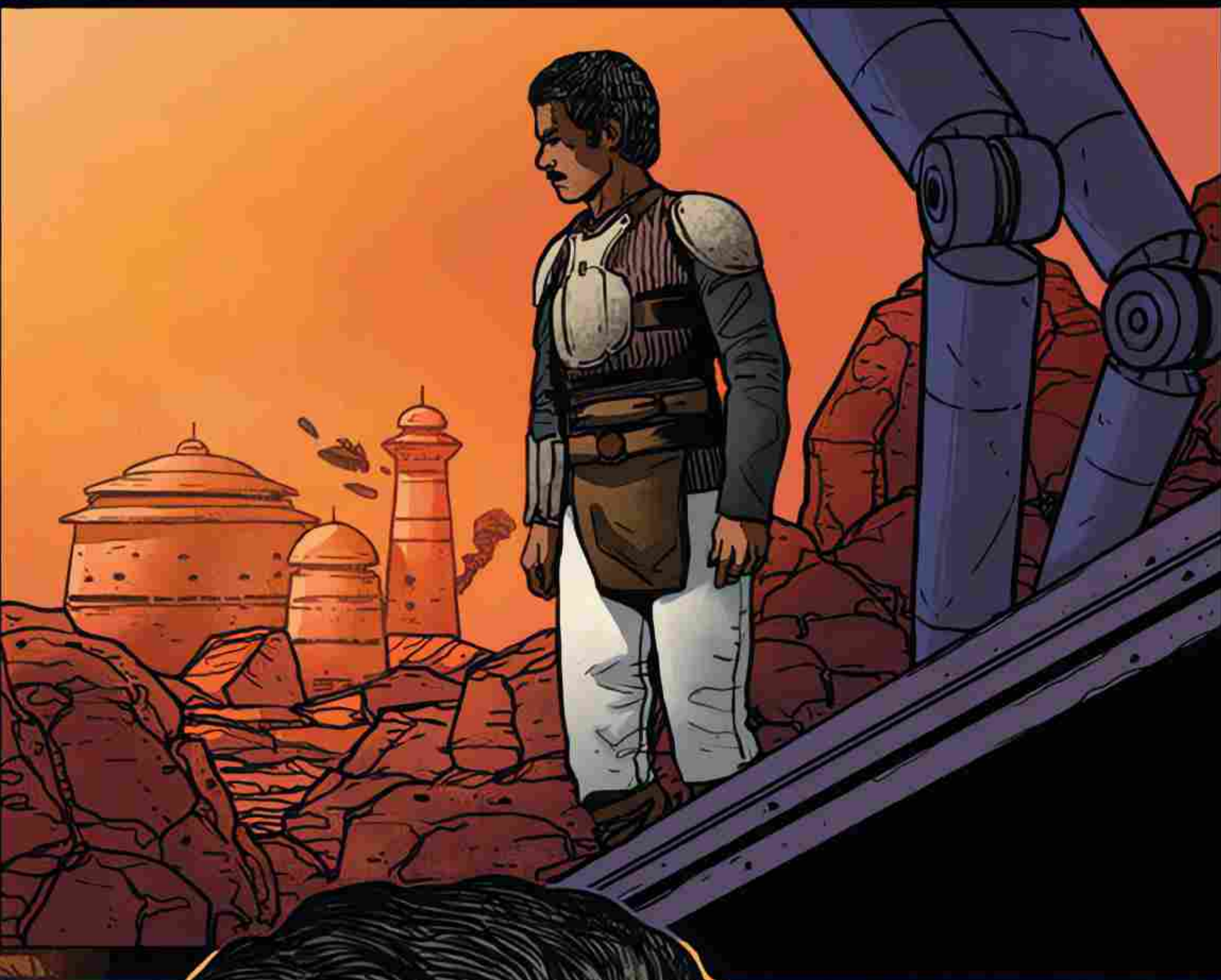
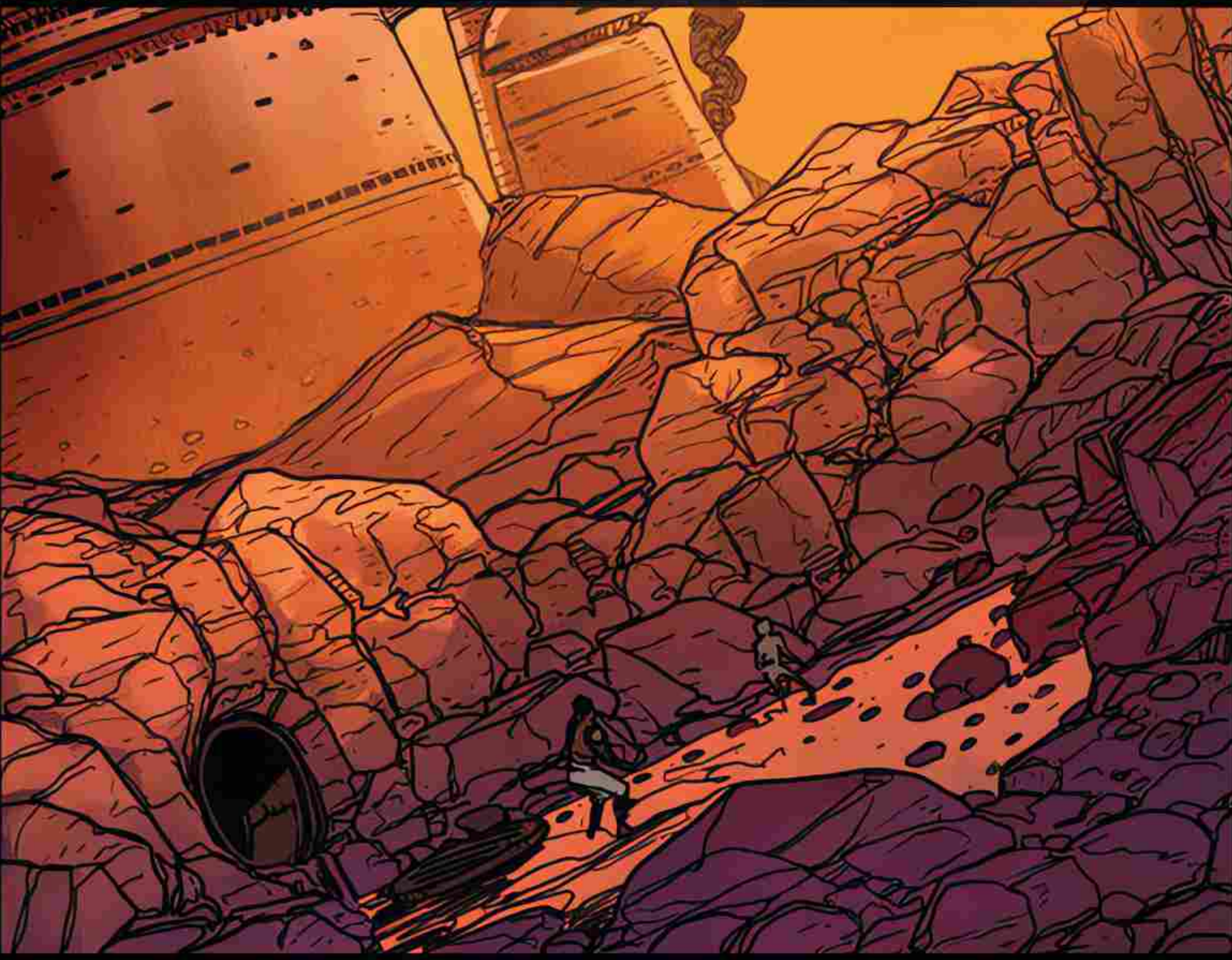
LOBOT IS *ESSENTIAL* FOR THE THINGS WE NEED TO DO. WE ARE HIM, AND EVENTUALLY, ONCE OUR PLAN IS COMPLETE, WE WILL BE *YOU* AS WELL.

WE WILL BE *EVERYONE*.



IT WAS LUCKY THAT I MET YOU, LANDO.

YOU'RE MAYBE THE LUCKIEST CAT I EVER MET.



Years earlier.

OH
NOOOOOOO...

SPLSH



HOLY HELL,
LANDO. HOW
DID WE SURVIVE
THAT?

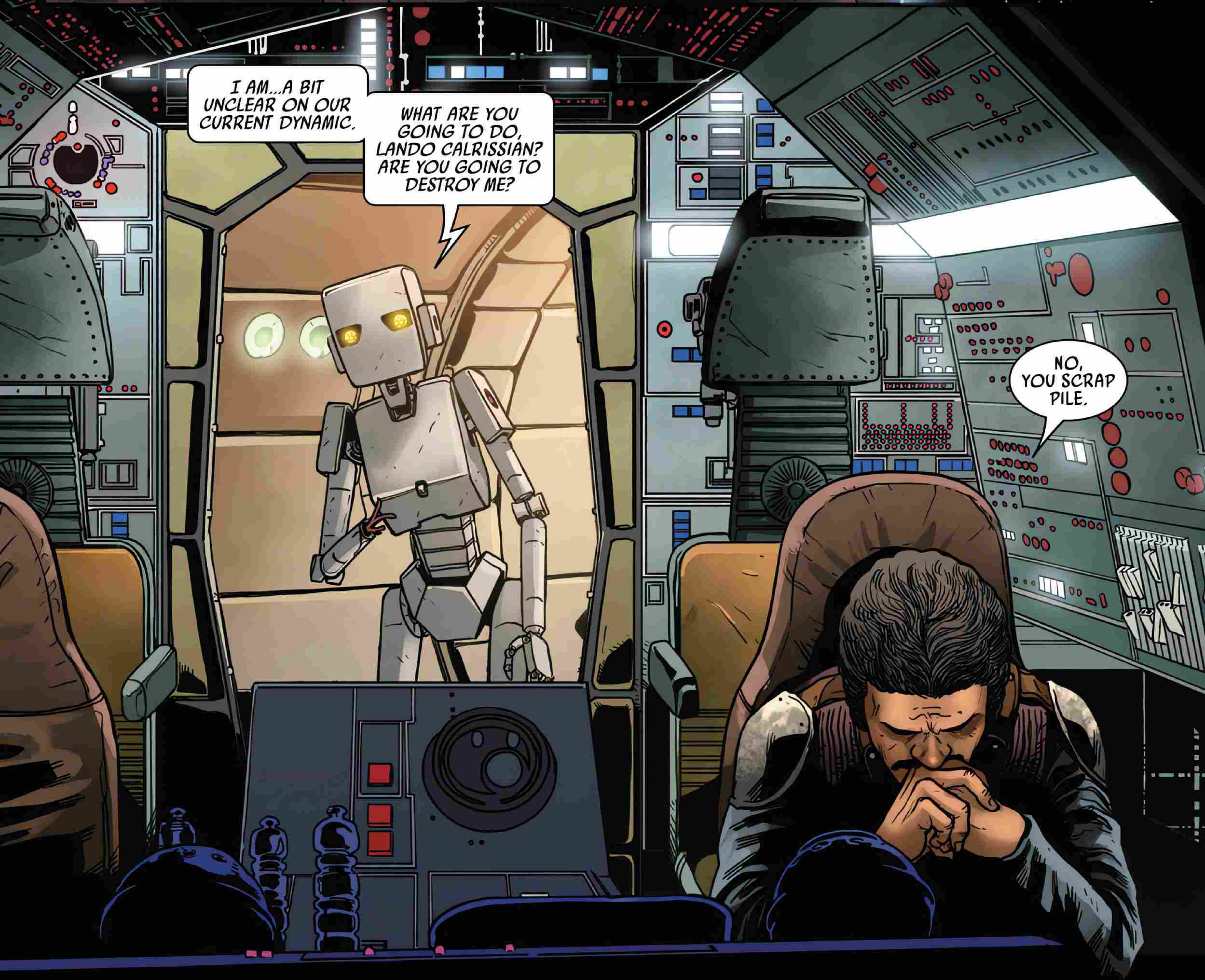
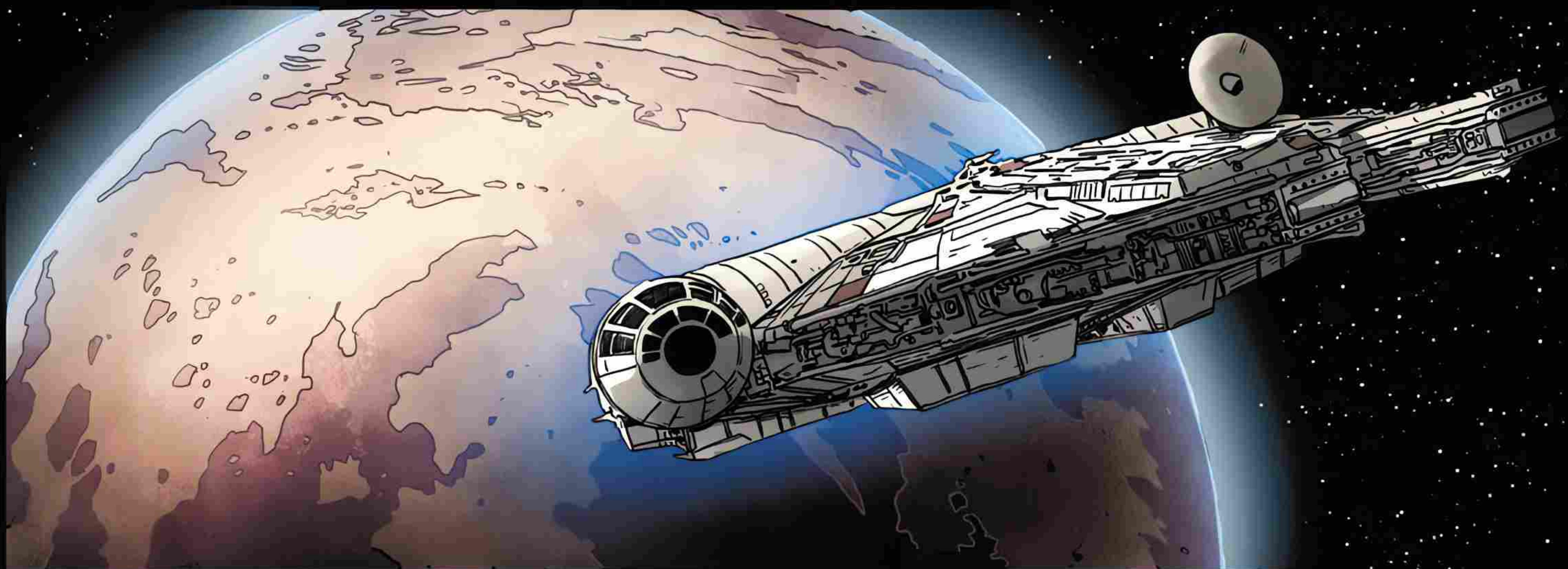
WE DIDN'T
JUST SURVIVE,
BROTHER.

WE
THRIVED.

HEIST...
ACCOMPLISHED.
THIS THING'S PRICELESS.
IT'LL SET US UP
FOR LIFE.

YOU'RE
SOMETHING ELSE,
CALRISSIAN. GOTTA
SAY, I'M GLAD
I MET YOU.

YOU'RE
MAYBE THE
LUCKIEST CAT
I EVER MET.



***It's Coming
for the
Metal...***

AUGUST:

~~DARK DROIDS 1~~
~~STAR WARS 37~~
~~DARTH VADER 37~~
~~DOCTOR APHRA 35~~
~~BOUNTY HUNTERS 37~~

SEPTEMBER:

~~STAR WARS 38~~
~~DARK DROIDS 2~~
~~DARTH VADER 38~~
~~BOUNTY HUNTERS 38~~
~~D-SQUAD 1~~
~~DOCTOR APHRA 36~~

OCTOBER:

~~BOUNTY HUNTERS 39~~
~~DARTH VADER 39~~
~~DARK DROIDS 3~~
~~STAR WARS 39~~
D-SQUAD 2
DOCTOR APHRA 37

NOVEMBER:

STAR WARS 40
DARTH VADER 40
DARK DROIDS 4
DOCTOR APHRA 38
BOUNTY HUNTERS 40
D-SQUAD 3

DECEMBER:

STAR WARS 41
D-SQUAD 4
BOUNTY HUNTERS 41
DARTH VADER 41
DOCTOR APHRA 39
DARK DROIDS 5

NEXT

STAR WARS 40

